

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OPR-02 /058 W

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O 100120Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 914

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6313

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: LIMA POLITICAL SITUATION EVENING JULY 9

REF: LIMA 6303

1. WAR MINISTRY CHIEF OF PUBLIC RELATIONS TOLD EMBOFF THAT SHOOTING HAD INDEED TAKEN PLACE TODAY AT CHORRILLOS MILITARY INSTRUCTION CENTER (CIMP). HE CLAIMED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SITUATION IS "NOW UNDER CONTROL". THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHIEF FURTHER STATED THAT "WE WILL ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE, PROBABLY BEFORE 10 P.M.". ABOVE SOURCE WORKS FOR PRIME MINISTER FERNANFEZ MALDONADO, BUT HE DID NOT MAKE CLEAR IN WHOSE NAME COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE ISSUED. EMBASSY HAS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE NAVY IS ON ALERT WITH A HEAVY SECURITY CONTINGENT AT THE NAVY MINISTRY. SOME SHIPS AT LEAST ARE STILL IN CALLAO ALTHOUGH EYE WITNESSES REPORT THAT "STEAM AND ANCHORS ARE UP".

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2. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY CHARGE HAS TOLD US THAT A CABINET MEETING IS IN PROGRESS BUT APPARENTLY WITH LESS THAN FULL ATTENDANCE. DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON HELICOPTERS WERE SEEN HOVERING OVER THE PALACE BUT THEY LEFT WITH NIGHTFALL. TWO APCS AND A FEW MORE POLICE THAN NORMAL WERE ALSO SEEN AT PALACE BUT SECURITY THERE IS NOT UNUSUAL IN VIEW OF THE PAST WEEK'S EVENTS. THE GOP MAY BE ATTEMPTING AT THIS TIME TO PATCH OVER DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO AVOID AN OPEN SPLIT.

3. LIMA APPEARS NORMAL APART FROM THE EXTRAORDINARILY LONG LINES AT GASOLINE STATIONS. THE CITY IS BUZZING WITH UNCONFIRMED RUMORS OF A STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF GOP. SOME RUMORS INDICATE THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ MAY HAVE BEEN A SECONDARY FIGURE DURING THE DAY, AND THE MAJOR PROTAGONISTS IN THE ALLEGED FACE-OFF ARE SAID TO BE PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AND CIMP CHIEF GENERAL CARLOS BOBBIO CENTURION.

4. WE ARE AWAITING FURTHER DEVELOPEMENTS AND AN EXPECTED COMMUNIQUE. THE SITUATION OF LIMA'S POLITICAL OBSERVERS IS SUMMED UP IN A COMMENT BY THE INFORMATION CHIEF FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO THE HEAD OF AN INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY. THE REPORTER WAS TOLD CURTLY, "YOUR WEEKEND IS SHOT".
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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